



Speech By  
**Joseph Kelly**


**MEMBER FOR GREENSLOPES**

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Record of Proceedings, 22 August 2017

## **MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST**

### **Palaszczuk Labor Government, Achievements**

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (3.13 pm): Today I rise to speak about our government's success in delivering key investment in education, training and local infrastructure that continues to drive local jobs. When I was elected I made a commitment to the people of my area that I would fight to save TAFE and be part of a government that invested in education and training. The LNP government cut funding to TAFE and, through their policy agenda, had TAFE teachers competing with private providers to use their own teaching spaces. Teaching spaces funded through public moneys were being contracted out to private providers at the expense of quality within our TAFEs.

In our area, the LNP government had threatened to close the Mount Gravatt TAFE campus. Having already stripped it of a range of successful programs, they went on to sack hundreds of teaching staff and, no doubt, their final achievement was going to be its ultimate sale. At the time of the election, on the south side of Brisbane youth unemployment had reached nearly 16 per cent. The people of my electorate stood up against the short-sighted agenda and I was proud to be elected with a commitment to save the Mount Gravatt TAFE, as well as further invest in vocational education and training. Training improves job outcomes, it contributes to increased productivity, it lowers unemployment and it makes our state an even better place to live and work.

I am proud that the rate of youth unemployment in our community has been declining since the election. Most recently it was approaching 14 per cent, which is an almost two per cent decline. The recent introduction of the Back to Work Youth Boost program in our area will no doubt continue this decline. In the recent budget, our government invested over \$800 million in vocational education and training, which is an increase of \$56 million in funding. We have fought hard to again make TAFE our premier VET provider, despite the complete mishandling of the VET sector and cuts to funding by the federal LNP. I am proud to be part of a government that is now working towards *Advancing skills for the future: a strategy for vocational education and training in Queensland*, with an aim to increase access and participation for everyone to essential education and training. I congratulate the minister for her leadership of this most important area.

I will never forget the lady who approached me during the last campaign and offered to help because she was so disgusted by what was happening to our local TAFE. That lady had been a foster mum to many young people. She found that TAFE provided her kids with flexibility and support that enabled them to continue into education after school and to do so in their local community. She said that many of those young people went on to complete university or trade qualifications and it was all because of the opportunities created by our local TAFE. Unlike the LNP government, our government has invested in TAFE education and training. Only Labor governments value education; only Labor governments value training. Investment in vocational education and training, supporting TAFE and the funding Skilling Queenslanders for Work program all ensure that our young people have access to more local jobs.

Alongside our government's investment in education and training, the Palaszczuk government continues to deliver more local jobs through local infrastructure. Our commitment to the Cross River Rail will deliver thousands of jobs into my community. On many occasions I have spoken about my support for Cross River Rail as not only will it improve our public transport but also it will see the creation of tens of thousands of direct and indirect local jobs in my area.

Similarly, I am proud of our government's investment in local schools, with several examples across my electorate of how our government is delivering much needed infrastructure. No example highlights more starkly the difference between the Palaszczuk government and the former LNP government than the investment in a new hall at Cavendish Road State High School. Cavendish Road High is one of the many great schools in my area. Currently, the school has over 1,700 students but does not have the capacity to have a whole-school assembly in one venue. The previous Labor member for Greenslopes, Mr Dick, promised to deliver a new hall for Cavendish Road State High School, but the promised funds were stolen and redirected to prop up Campbell Newman in Ashgrove. The previous LNP member promised to build a hall, but only if we voted for the Newman-Nicholls plan to sell assets. Our government will keep its commitments and we have committed to building a new hall at Cavendish Road State High School. That is what we will do. I am pleased that planning and construction is getting under way on this much needed infrastructure. Investment in infrastructure such as Cross River Rail and schools, expanding the Back to Work program, supporting innovation in local small businesses, funding Skilling Queenslanders for Work and investing in education and training: that is how the Palaszczuk Labor government is creating more local jobs.